

Media ownership in the US is already too consolidated. The loss to public discourse over even the last seven years has been obvious, and appalling. To work well, democracy requires a fully informed public: currently too few issues are covered in all the media, and too often only one side is presented, the one favored by the media owner. In addition, the explosion of advertising-driven programming on TV, cable and radio is both encouraging and producing a morally bankrupt society.

The airwaves belong to all the people of this country, and should be used for their benefit. The FCC should be promoting competition and local access, rather than reducing it as you appear to be planning to do on June 2. Company control of all types of media outlets should be reduced from the 1996 level of 35%. 15% would seem to be a reasonable level.

Also, please stop accepting personal perks from the communications industry. You cannot remain unbiased when you do that. Remember, your job is to represent and protect the PUBLIC interest.